

cooperation with a corresponding external thread in the base member (1) and a central external thread (8) in its upper portion for cooperation with a corresponding internal thread in the main cartridge (2).

5. (Currently Amended) An air dryer according to claim 2, wherein the main cartridge (2) contains silica gel with fine pores (4) or molecular sieve and the intermediate cartridge (3) contains a pre-filter (11) and silica gel with large pores (12) for the air flow before the main cartridge (2) and molecular sieve (14) and a fine filter (15) for the air flow after the main cartridge.

6. (Currently Amended) An air dryer according to claim 5, wherein the silica gel with large pores (12) is arranged in an annular outer compartment of the intermediate cartridge (3) and the molecular sieve (14) in a cylindrical central compartment thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) An intermediate cartridge (3) for use in an air dryer according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.